

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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CIEP-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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PC-01 OPR-02 /084 W

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R 300800Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4907

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0477

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, RW, BY

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ABOUT CENTRAL AFRICA INTERRELATIONSHIPS

FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND COMMENTS EMERGED FROM CONVERSATION  
JUNE 28 WHICH I HAD WITH RWANDAN AMBASSADOR HATUNGIMANA.

1. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED ON THE RESULTS  
OF THE JUNE 19 TO 21 MEETING IN KIGALI OF THE ZAIRE, RWANDA,  
AND BURUNDI  
FONMINS LISTS A SIZABLE NUMBER OF CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS  
WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS APPROVED, TWO ARE OF OUTSTANDING  
IMPORTANCE, AND THEY WILL STILL REQUIRE THE CONCURRENCE  
OF THE THREE CHIEFS OF STATE WHEN THEY MEET AT THE NEXT  
TRIPARTITE SESSION (WHOSE DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED).  
FIRST IS DRAFT CONVENTION CREATING "ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF  
THE COUNTRIES OF THE GREAT LAKES", AND SECOND  
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IS DRAFT""TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION AMONG BURUNDI,

RWANDA, AND ZAIRE". LATTER IS UMBRELLA ACCORD COVERING MANY SPECIFIC AREAS OF TRIPARTITE COOPERATION (AMONG WHICH BURUNDI FONMIN, ON HIS RETURN FROM KIGALI, SPECIFIED INTERNAL AND MUTUAL SECURITY QUESTIONS TO BE PARAMOUNT).

3. I ASKED AMBASSADOR WHETHER THESE CONVENTIONS WOULD NOT, IF SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENTED (ON WHICH SOME SKEPTICISOM MAY WELL BE JUSTIFIED), TIE BOTH RWANDA AND BURUNDI TO THE POLICIES OF ZAIRE, THEIR MUCH BIGGER NEIGHBOR. WOULD THEY NOT ALSO RUN ATHWART THE NATURAL ECONOMIC LINKS OF RWANDA AND BURUNDI TO EAST AFRICA? HATUNGIMANA ANSWERED THAT THERE WAS INDEED AN IMPLICIT RAPPROCHEMENT TO ZAIRE, BUT HE ADDED THAT THE NEW ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE A NUCLEUS FOR A MUCH LARGER ENTERPRISE IN CENTRAL AFRICA, WHICH WOULD ATTEMPT TO ENLIST TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, KENYA, AND EVEN UGANDA IN THE COMMUNITY. WHEN I QUERIED THE REALISM OF SUCH A GRANDIOSE PROJECT WHEN EVEN THE MORE TIGHTLY KNIT EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY WAS IN SUCH GRAVE DIFFICULTIES, HE SAID THAT A LARGER REGIONAL FRAMEWORK MIGHT BE MORE EASY TO MANAGE, AND THAT ANYWAY, A BIG GROUPING WOULD ADD TO REGIONAL STABIOITY AGAINST CHINESE AND SOVIET ASPIRATIONS.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ADDED THAT EVERYWHERE IN THIS AREA, GOVERNMENTS WERE WONDERING WHAT AIMS THE USSR HAD IN DELIVERING GREAT QUANTITIES OF ARMS TO IDI AMIN, AND WHAT PLANS AMIN HAD TO THREATEN HIS NEIGHBORS. THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR TOPIC OF A MEETING OF RWANDAN AMBASSADORS ABROAD TO BE HELD IN KIGALI BEGINNING JULY 03. CLEARLY THE INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE UGANDAN ARMED FORCES FROM 8,000 TO 21,000 WAS UPSETTING THE REGIONAL EQUILIBRIUM. IT MADE SECURITY LINKS AMONG RWANDA, BURUNDI, AND ZAIRE EVEN MORE DESIRABLE.

5. AMBASSADOR SAID HE BELIEVED TRIP OF BURUNDI FONMIN TO KINSHASA AT END OF LAST WEEK HAD BEEN MADE TO DELIVER PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM MICOMBERO PLEDGING SUPPORT TO OBUTU AND INDICATING BURUNDI PLEASURE THAT MOBUTU HAD CRUSHED PLOT AGAINST HIM. HATUNGIMANA COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT FAILURE OF PLOT (IN WHICH HE CLAIMED NOT TO BELIEVE CHARGES OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT) DID NOT CURE FUNDAMENTAL MALAISE IN ZAIRE. FOR EXAMPLE, AS FAR AS RWANDA COULD SEE, KINSHASA HAD "ALMOST ABANDONED" KIVU REGION, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND ZAIRE TROOPS IN GOMA AND ALONG UGANDA BORDER, UNPAID FOR SIX MONTHS, WERE IN POTENTIALLY REBELLIOUS MOOD. STILL, NO OTHER ZAIRIAN PERSONALITY WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH EVEN WHAT MOBUTU HAD SO FAR IN KEEPING ZAIRE FROM FLYING APART. MARK

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